

REMARKS

By this Response, no claims are amended, added or canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this Response, claims 1-20 will remain pending in the patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Schnell *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,213,612) (hereinafter "Schnell"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is patentable over Schnell at least because this claim recites an electronic assembly, which comprises, *inter alia*, a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors. Schnell does not disclose, teach or suggest these features.

Schnell discloses a vehicular exterior mirror assembly 20 that includes an actuator 22 having a case 34 and at least two electric motors 78 supported by the case and connected to a reflective element 30. (*See* FIGS. 1 and 2 and col. 2, lines 23-29). Schnell also discloses that a wiring harness 102 is provided to connect the exterior mirror assembly 20 to the portion 28 of the vehicle. (*See* FIG. 1 and col. 6, lines 49-67). Schnell discloses that the wiring harness includes a connector 108 and a plurality of wires 104 terminated at the connector 108. (*See* col. 2, lines 31-33 and FIG. 8). Schnell further discloses that the connector 108 is formed by two portions 112a and 112b that are integrally molded. (*See* Abstract, col. 5, lines 51-60 and FIG. 8).

However, unlike claim 1, Schnell fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the wiring harness 102 is encapsulated by a molded body. Schnell merely teaches that the connector 108 is formed by two molded portions 112a and 112b. Schnell is silent as to a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors, as recited in claim 1. As such, Schnell does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element recited by claim 1 and, as a result, cannot anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2-16 are patentable over Schnell at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 17 is patentable over Schnell for at least similar reasons as provided in claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claim 17 is patentable over Schnell at least because this claim recites an electronic assembly comprising, *inter alia*, a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of the plurality of connectors. As mentioned previously in the discussion related to claim 1, Schnell fails to

disclose, teach or suggest a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of the plurality of connectors. As such, Schnell cannot anticipate claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Schnell does not disclose, teach or suggest a molded body that encapsulates the wiring harness and that has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold the plurality of connectors and the wiring harness as one piece.

Unlike claim 17, Schnell merely teaches that the wiring harness 102 is passed through a central opening 27 of the pivot post 26, that the connector 108 is connected to the actuator assembly 20 and that the other extremity 124 of the wiring harness 102 is connected to the portion 28 of the vehicle. Because the wiring harness 102 must be able to be free to connect the movable mirror assembly to the vehicle part 28, Schnell clearly teaches away from a molded body (that encapsulates the wiring harness) that has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold the plurality of connectors and the wiring harness as one piece.

Claims 18 and 19 are patentable over Schnell at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claim 20 is patentable over Schnell for at least similar reasons as provided in claims 1 and 17 and for the additional features recited therein. Namely, claim 20 is patentable over Schnell at least because this claim recites an electronic assembly comprising, *inter alia*, a molded body formed to encapsulate the wiring harness and to cover a portion of each of the plurality of connectors, the molded body including a base portion that extends between the plurality of connectors. As mentioned previously, these features are absent in Schnell. As such, Schnell cannot anticipate claim 20.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Schnell are respectfully requested.

Applicants have addressed the Examiner's rejection and objection and respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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